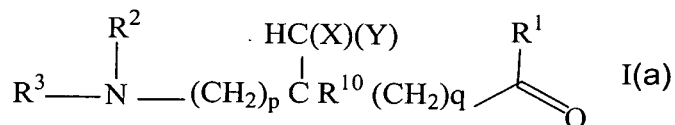


In the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) An insecticide comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula I(a) and salts derived therefrom



wherein:

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

-OR⁵ wherein R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic;

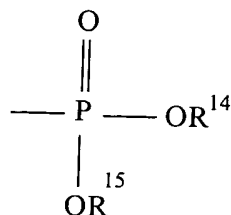
–NR⁶OH wherein R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, carbocyclic and substituted carbocyclic;

-NR⁷R⁸ wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl and carbocyclic; and

a group wherein R¹ is linked to R² to form a diradical bridging group;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, carbocyclic, substituted carbocyclic, aryl, substituted aryl, acyl and substituted acyl;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of substituted alkyl, substituted haloalkyl, substituted acyl, substituted aryl, substituted alkylaryl and substituted arylalkyl, wherein the substituent is a group of the formula

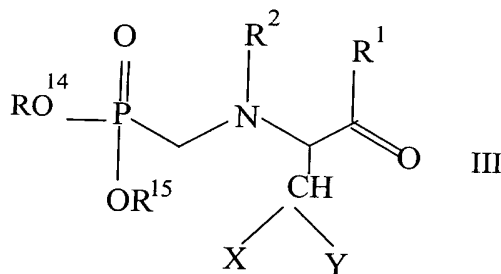


wherein R^{14} and R^{15} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkylaryl, haloalkyl, haloaryl, haloalkylaryl, and haloaralkyl;

R^{10} , X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, thiol, hydroxy, thioalkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkyl, carbocyclic, substituted carbocyclic, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic; and

p and q are independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3.

29. (New) An insecticide according to claim 27 comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula III and salts derived therefrom



30. (New) An insecticide according to claim 29 wherein

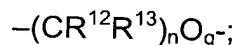
R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

– OR^5 wherein R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl substituted alkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic substituted with alkyl wherein the alkyl is optionally further substituted with hydrocarbyloxy;

– NR^6OH wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, carbocyclic and substituted carbocyclic;

$-NR^7R^8$ wherein R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen and C_1 to C_6 alkyl; and

a group wherein R^1 is linked to R^2 to form a bridging group $-R^2-R^1-$ of formula

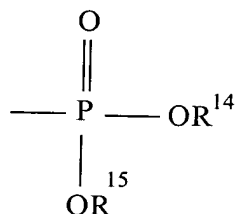


wherein n is 1 or 2, q is zero or 1 and R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl and haloalkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:

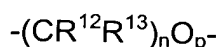
hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl and aralkyl;

substituted alkyl, substituted haloalkyl, substituted acyl, substituted aryl, substituted alkylaryl and substituted arylalkyl, wherein the substituent is a group of formula



wherein R^{14} and R^{15} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, alkyl, aryl, alkanoyl, alkylaryl, aralkyl, haloalkyl, haloaryl, haloalkyl aryl and haloarylalkyl;

a group wherein R^2 is linked to R^1 to provide the group $-R^2-R^1-$ of formula



wherein n is 1 or 2, p is 0 or 1 and R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl and haloalkyl;

p and q are independently selected from 0 and 1; and

X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 to C_6 alkyl, thiol, hydroxy, C_1 to C_6 thioalkyl, C_1 to C_6 alkoxy, substituted C_1 to C_6 alkyl, C_4 to C_6 carboxylic substituted C_4 to C_6 heterocyclic and substituted C_4 to C_6 heterocyclic.

31. (New) An insecticide according to claim 29 wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of

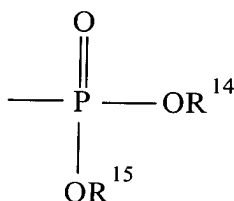
hydroxy, C_1 to C_6 alkyl, halogenated C_1 to C_4 alkyl;

$-NR^6OH$ wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, carbocyclic and substituted carbocyclic;

$-NR^7R^8$ wherein R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen and C_1 to C_4 alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen C_1 to C_8 alkyl, halogen-substituted C_1 to C_6 alkyl, and C_1 to C_6 alkyl substituted by a group of the formula

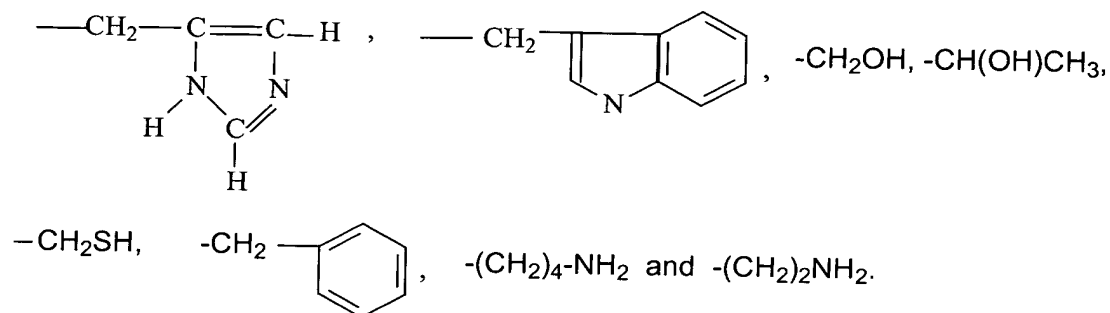


wherein R^{14} and R^{15} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1 to C_4 alkyl; and

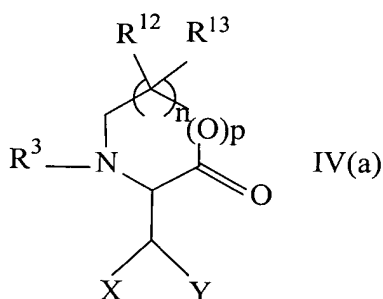
X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 to C_4 alkyl thiol, aryl, hydroxyaryl, acyl, aryl substituted C_1 to C_4 alkyl, heterocyclic, thio-substituted C_1 to C_4 alkyl, amino-substituted C_1 to C_4 alkyl and hydroxyalkyl.

32. (New) An insecticide according to claim 29 wherein the group $HC(X)(Y)$ is selected from the group consisting of: $-CH_3$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2CH_2SCH_3$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2NHCNHNH_2$, $-CH_2C_6H_5OH$, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2CH_3$,

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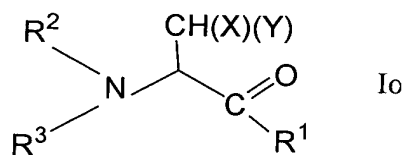


33. (New) An insecticide according to claim 28 wherein said at least one compound comprises a compound of formula IV(a):

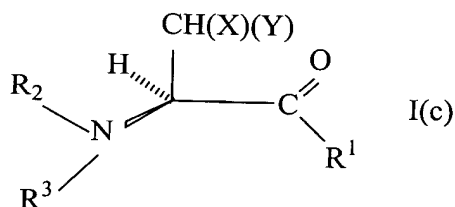


wherein n is 1 or 2, p is 0 or 1, R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl and haloalkyl.

34. (New) An insecticide according to claim 28 wherein said at least one compound comprises a compound of formula Ic



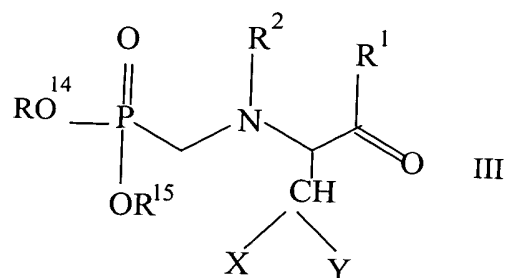
and wherein at least 60 mole percent of said compound has the stereochemistry of formula I(c):



35. (New) An insecticide according to claim 34 wherein at least 80% of the compound Ic has the stereochemistry I(c).
36. (New) An insecticide according to claim 34 wherein at least 90% of the compound Ic has the stereochemistry I(c).
37. (New) An insecticide according to claim 29 wherein said at least one compound comprises is derived from an amino acid comprising at least 80% of the L-enantiomer.
38. (New) An insecticide according to claim 28 comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of 3-Methyl-2-(phosphonomethyl-amino)-butyric acid; [(1-Hydroxycarbamoyl-3-methyl-butylamino)-methyl]-phosphonic acid monomethyl ester; [(1-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2-phenyl-ethylamino)-methyl]-phosphonic acid monomethyl ester; Phenyl-2-(phosphonomethyl-amino)-propionic acid; 4-(2-methylpropyl)-3-(dimethoxy-phosphonomethyl)-2,2-bis-trifluoromethyl-oxazolidin-5-one; 2-[(Dimethoxy-phosphorylmethyl)-amino]-3-hydroxy-butyric acid methyl ester; 2-[Bis-(dimethoxy-phosphorylmethyl)-amino]-3-methyl-butyric acid methyl ester; [(1-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2-methyl-propylamino)-methyl]-phosphonic acid; [(1-Hydroxycarbamoyl-3-methyl-butylamino)-methyl]-phosphonic acid and the salts thereof.
39. (New) An insecticide according to claim 28 comprising N-phosphonomethyl valine and agriculturally acceptable salts thereof.

40. (New) An insecticide according to claim 28 comprising one or more salts of N-phosphonomethyl valine selected from the group consisting of monoalkylammonium, dialkylammonium, trialkylammonium, monoalkenylammonium, dialkenylammonium, trialkenylammonium, monoalkanolammonium, dialkanolammonium, trialkanolammonium, heterocyclicammonium and arylammonium.
41. (New) An insecticide according to claim 28 comprising N-phosphonomethyl valine wherein at least 80% of N-phosphonomethyl valine is the D(+) enantiomer.
42. (New) An insecticide according to claim 29 further comprising a chelating agent for divalent metals.
43. (New) An insecticide according to claim 42 wherein the chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of polycarboxylic acid chelating agents, aromatic and aliphatic carboxylic acid chelating agents, amino acid chelating agents, ether polycarboxylic acid chelating agents, phosphonic acid chelating agents, hydroxycarboxylic acid chelating agents and dimethylglyoxime, in their acid or salt forms.
44. (New) An insecticide according to claim 28 further comprising at least one second insecticidal compound selected from the group consisting of organophosphorus compounds, pyrethroids, carbamates, biopesticides, endosulfan, abemectin, XDE-105, diafenthiuron, fipronil, chlorfenapyr, tebufenocides, fenazaquin, imidaclopride, triazamates, fentin amitraz, MK-242 and 4-haloalkyl-3-heterocyclylpyridines and 4-haloalkyl-5-heterocyclylpyrimidines and their salts.

45. (New) An insecticide according to claim 44 wherein said at least one second insecticidal compound comprises an insecticide selected from the group consisting of spinosad, endosulfan and amitraz.
46. (New) An insecticide according to claim 44 wherein the weight ratio of the compound of formula I(a) to said second insecticidal compound is from 95:5 to 9:95.
47. (New) An insecticide according to claim 28 wherein the insecticide comprises from 1 to 99% by weight of a compound of formula I(a) and an agriculturally acceptable carrier therefor.
48. (New) An insecticide according to claim 47 wherein the insecticide includes an agriculturally acceptable carrier and a surface active agent.
49. (New) A method of controlling insects comprising applying to a locus of insects an insecticide according to claim 28.
50. (New) A method of controlling insects in crops comprising applying to the crop an effective amount of an insecticide according to claim 28.
51. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein the insecticide is used to control insect species selected from the orders Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Coleoptera, Psocoptera, Isoptera, Phyllophaga and Homoptera.
52. (New) A method according to claim 50 wherein the crop is cotton.
53. (New) A method for the preparation of an insecticide of formula III



wherein:

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of:

-OR⁵ wherein R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic;

-NR⁶OH wherein R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, carbocyclic and substituted carbocyclic;

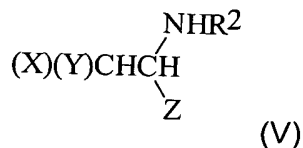
-NR⁷R⁸ wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl and carbocyclic; and

a group wherein R¹ is linked to R² to form a diradical bridging group;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, carbocyclic, substituted carbocyclic, aryl, substituted aryl, acyl and substituted acyl;

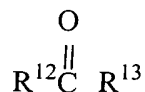
X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁ to C₆ alkyl, thiol, hydroxy, C₁ to C₆ thioalkyl, C₁ to C₆ alkoxy, substituted C₁ to C₆ alkyl, C₄ to C₆ carboxylic substituted C₄ to C₆ heterocyclic and substituted C₄ to C₆ heterocyclic;

said method comprising reacting an amino acid of formula (V) or derivative thereof



wherein Z is $-\text{CN}$ or COOR^5 ;

with a compound of the formula



wherein R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl and haloalkyl to form an intermediate;

reacting the intermediate with a phosphite of formula $\text{HPO}(\text{OR}^{14})(\text{OR}^{15})$ wherein R^{14} and R^{15} are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, to provide a compound of formula III; and

optionally hydrolysing the ester groups to provide a compound of formula III wherein R^{14} and R^{15} are hydrogen and R^1 is hydroxy.

54. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of N-phosphonomethyl valine and salts thereof.

55. (New) A compound according to claim 54 wherein at least 80% of the compound is in the form of the D(+) enantiomer.